

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

/056 W

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R 092116Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3231

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 3227

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, PN, CI

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN DELEGATION IN CHILE

REF: A) SANTIAGO 3110 B) PANAMA 2635

1. SUMMARY: PANAMANIAN DELEGATION MET WITH TOP GOC OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PINOCHET, DURING MAY 6-8 VISIT TO SANTIAGO. MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.
2. PANAMANIAN DELEGATION HEADED BY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY FERNANDO MANFREDO AND COMPOSED OF FONMINISTRY OFFICIALS JORGE ILLUECA AND CARLOS LOPEZ, AND NEWSMAN MARIO VELAZQUES DEPARTED SANTIAGO EVENING OF MAY 8, REPORTEDLY FOR NICARAGUA.
3. PANAMANIAN DELEGATION MET WITH CHILEAN FONMINISTRY OFFICIALS, ECONMIN SERGIO DE CASTRO, AND HAD AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET MAY 8. THEY OFFERED CHILE FREE PORT FACILITIES AT COLON AND MOST FAVORED NATION TREATMENT IN USE OF THESE FACILITIES. A GROUP OF CHILEANS WILL REPORTEDLY TRAVEL TO PANAMA IN NEAR FUTURE TO OBSERVE PORT.
4. DURING MAY 7 PRESS CONFERENCE, MANFREDO STATED THAT OBJECTIVE OF VISIT WAS TO BRIEF CHILEANS ON CURRENT STATUS

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OF CANAL NEGOTIATIONS AND TO "EXPRESS THANKS FOR ALL THE

SUPPORT CHILE HAS OFFERED TO DATE, WHICH IS EQUAL TO THE SUPPORT OF OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, FOR THE PANAMANIAN CAUSE IN THE CANAL NEGOTIATIONS." SAID THAT PANAMANIAN BELIEVE "THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE MUCH MORE RAPID" THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE UNTIL NOW BUT NEVERTHELESS "WE REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT, IN A SHORT PERIOD, WE CAN REACH THE HOPED FOR AGREEMENT, AND NOW LATIN AMERICAN SUPPORT IS FUNDAMENTAL IN ORDER THAT THE U.S. GIVE THE PANAMANIAN PROBLEM THE PRIORITY THAT WE ASSIGN TO IT."

5. AFTER CALL ON PINOCHET, MANFREDO TOLD PRESS THAT PINOCHET HAD PROMISED THAT GOC WILL CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT FOR GOP ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS. MANFREDO CLAIMED HE HAD MADE FULL PRESENTATION TO PINOCHET ON STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND GOP BARGAINING POSITION, AND HAD PRINCIPALLY STRESSED PANAMANIAN DESIRE TO JURISDICTION OVER CANAL ZONE WITHIN THREE YEARS AND OPERATING CONTROL OF CANAL WITHIN 20, WHEREAS U.S. WANTS TO RETAIN OPERATING CONTROL FOR NEXT 50 YEARS. MANFREDO AGAIN PROFUSELY THANKED GOC FOR ITS SUPPORT.

6. DURING MAY 8 PRESS CONFERENCE, FONMIN UNDERSECY VALDES THANKED PANAMANIAN FOR THE "COMPLETE AND CLEAR" INFORMATION ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS, PRAISED "SPIRIT" IN WHICH PANAMA IS NEGOTIATING, AND STATED GOC DESIRE FOR EVENTUAL US/PANAMA AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD "RESPECT RECIPROCAL INTERESTS OF BOTH AND CONTRIBUTE TO CONTINENTAL SOLIDARITY."

7. COMMENT: PRESS DID NOT MENTION TOPICS OF CONVERSATION OTHER THAN CANAL. WE ARE CHECKING WITH OUR SOURCES AND WILL REPORT.
POPPER

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